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New Members of the society

A purpose of the Augusta County Historical Society is to publish *Augusta Historical Bulletin* to be sent without charge to all members. Single issues are available at \$3.00 per copy.

The membership of the society is composed of annual and life members who pay the following dues:

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Annual (sustaining)	\$25.00
Life Membership	\$125.00
Annual (Institutional)	\$10.00
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BLACK EDUCATION IN STAUNTON*

By
Arthur R. Ware, Jr.

Free public education in Virginia began with the adoption in 1869, of the hated Underwood Constitution. It was hated by White Virginians because it was the product of a legislature composed of what Robert and Carter Glass, co-authors of VIRGINIA DEMOCRACY, called a motley group of "scalawags, carpet baggers, and negro allies." As much as it was hated, the Underwood Constitution did bring the first mandate to the governing officials to provide for genuine public education in Virginia and I quote—"the legislature is to provide by law at the first session under the Constitution a uniform system of public free schools and for its gradual equal and full introduction into all counties of the state by 1876 and as much sooner as possible."

As a result of the adoption of the Underwood Constitution, the newly appointed Board of Education for the Staunton Township met for its organizational meeting on November 11, 1870. Three days later on November 14, 1870, they prepared a budget for the next seven months of \$1600.00, exclusive of salaries, for presentation to city council and schools for both Blacks and Whites opened in December of the same year.

The fledgling school system, as expected was beset with many problems. Since there were no school buildings, space had to be secured, teachers had to be found and the curriculum had to be determined, among other things.

The first classes were held in the basements of the Lutheran and Baptist churches. The latter housed the Black students. As enrollment grew various locations were secured. Black students attended classes at the following sites:

- 1870 Mt. Zion Baptist Church, Baptist and Sunnyside Streets
- 1872-76 John Wesley Methodist Church, New and Prospect Streets (The present Augusta St. U. M. Church)
- 1873 The Lara and Timberlake house on the Valley Hotel property
- 1877 The Timberlake Tobacco Factory #2, Churchville Road between Lewis and Augusta Streets

★ Presented to the Society May 13, 1981.

1877 Former White Madison St. School between Frederick and Beverly Streets

1879 The Old Market Place, Central and Baldwin Streets

1880 The Heydenrich Building, former Kroger Supermarket site between Augusta and Central Avenue

The first Black teachers were from the north. They were:

Mrs. M. S. Smith employed Dec. 18, 1870 @ \$25 per month

Margaret K. Jones employed Jan. 4, 1871 @ \$30 per month plus room rent

Mary T. Jackson employed Jan. 23, 1871 @ \$25 per month plus room rent

Tenure of Black teachers was short as they were replaced by three new teachers for the 1871-72 term and they in turn were replaced for the 1872-73 term, even though salaries had advanced to 35 and 40 dollars a month.

During the 1873-74 term two actions were taken which affected Black education. Staunton schools began as part of the Augusta County system as did the Waynesboro schools. On September 27, 1873 the Staunton Board of Education passed a resolution approving the separation of the city schools from the county system. This automatically excluded Staunton from receiving money from various foundations that were aiding southern counties in promoting Black free public education. Waynesboro, on the other hand, remained a part of the county system for a much longer period and as a result received a grant which enabled them to build their Rosenwald School for Blacks.

The second action is described by Cornelius J. Heatwole in his book, A HISTORY OF EDUCATION IN VIRGINIA as follows, "The colored children were taught at first by colored teachers from the North, but on account of these not being exemplary in conduct, the colored citizens of the city petitioned the council to give them white teachers, which petition was granted." A search of the minutes of the Board of Education and the Superintendent's Journal revealed that three white teachers were employed but gave no reason for their action. One point of interest did stand out. A Mr. Waddell was employed as principal at \$90 00 per month and his two assistants at \$45.00 per month each when the previous year, the Black teachers were paid \$45 and \$35 per month respectively. In reference to this matter there is an entry dated Oct. 6, 1881 in the Superintendent's Journal which states, "An article appeared in the Valley Virginian last

week complaining that colored teachers are not provided the colored schools, this was not noticed because it is believed that the majority of the colored people prefer white teachers." However, it is interesting to note that on Aug. 23, 1883, with no explanation for the change, seven local Blacks were employed as teachers and Blacks continued as teachers in the Black schools until June 1966 when the system was integrated.

During the 1870s and 1880s public education in Staunton suffered from growing pains, especially Black education as evidenced by the following enrollment figures and notes taken from School Board minutes and the Superintendent's Journal.

June 29, 1874	Whites 461	Blacks 160
Dec. 2, 1875	Whites 490	Blacks 125
Feb. 17, 1876	Whites 487	Blacks 147
Mar. 30, 1877	Whites 486	Blacks 228
Sept. 14, 1878	Whites 368	Blacks 150
Oct. 7, 1878	Whites 437	Blacks 176
Oct. 20, 1879	Whites 405	Blacks 258
Oct. 11, 1881	Whites 435	Blacks 365
Jan. 3, 1881	Quite a number of Blacks not in school applied for admission, refused for want of accommodations.	
Sept. 1, 1882	First mention of a school census.	
	Of School Age	Whites- 1014 Blacks- 633
Sept. 15, 1882	Whites 376	Blacks 365 (Crowded)
	New teacher and an additional room opened in Heydenrich Building. 110 in one room.	
Sept. 26, 1882	Whites 457	Blacks 398
Oct. 23, 1882	Whites 434	Blacks 408
Sept. 17, 1883	Whites 384	Blacks 423
Sept. 21, 1883	Mrs. Boulding's (Black) salary raised from \$30 to \$35 per month. Has 150 students, placed on double shift.	
Oct. 1883	30 Blacks dismissed because of youth and backwardness.	
Sept. 15, 1884	Whites 378	Blacks 449
Sept. 19, 1884	55 Blacks sent home, no room.	
Oct. 20, 1884	Started 45 Blacks in Heydenrich Building.	
Sept. 15, 1885	Whites 444	Blacks 489
Sept. 18, 1885	Lavena Jones (Black) has 186 pupils; salary increased from \$35 to \$50 per month and an	

assistant employed with her paying the assistant.

1885	School census	White 1119	Blacks 807
Sept. 15, 1886	Whites 425	Blacks 420	
Sept. 16, 1886	186 Blacks in primary grade.		
Sept. 20, 1886	Primary grade divided into three sections.		
	First shift 9-11 A.M.		
	Second shift 11-1 P.M.		
	Third shift 1-3 P.M.		
Sept. 23, 1886	Whites 460	Blacks 455	

The curriculum at the beginning consisted primarily of the three "Rs"- reading, writing and arithmetic. On January 1, 1873 music was offered in all schools, followed by calisthenics on September 22, 1880. Both of these subjects were taught by itinerant teachers as was cooking and sewing. The latter was later concentrated in the little brick building that was just west of the Stonewall Jackson School. However, on September 8, 1909, the colored pupils were eliminated from cooking school because it became "impractical and unprofitable."

Classes were organized on an ungraded system and were known simply as primary, grammar and intermediate. On October 25, 1878 Dr. William H. Ruffner, the Superintendent of Public Instruction, visited the White schools and expressed his concern regarding this "ungradeness." As a result, one month later the White schools were reorganized on a graded basis. The Black schools remained ungraded.

To determine teacher qualifications and certification, Black and White teachers took an examination prepared by the local superintendent who certified them on the basis of their scores as follows:

95 to 100	Professional Certificate
90 to 94	First Grade Certificate
87 to 89	Second Grade Certificate
83 to 86	Third Grade Certificate
80 to 82	Fourth Grade Certificate

Blacks and Whites were not given the same examination. This practice continued until 1891 when the state prepared the examination to be administered locally. In 1905 the entire process was taken over by the state.

The minutes of the Board of Education for the period 1888 thru 1892 could not be located. However, it was during this period that the building now standing on the southwest corner

of Central Avenue and Frederick Street was secured for a Black school. The Stonewall Jackson School on West Beverly Street was opened in May of 1888 for white pupils. The difference between the two buildings was that the Black pupils were not the only occupants of their building as evidenced by the minutes of March 4, 1895 when the Board sent a resolution to City Council requesting that the employees and shops of the city water and electrical departments vacate the basement of the colored school as they interfered with the conduct of the school.

Now let us return to the hated Underwood Constitution. After the voting rights of White Virginians were restored following reconstruction several attempts were made to abolish the constitution and around the turn of the century it appeared that these efforts would succeed. The political changes at this time brought into power a group of White politicians who were unsympathetic to the cause of the Negro and who sought to disenfranchise him and reduce his status as a citizen. One of their specific goals was to have legislation passed that would separate the taxes paid by Negroes from those paid by Whites and to spend only those taxes paid by Negroes to support Negro schools. If passed this would have meant the closing of most Black public schools in the state, especially in localities like Staunton where the Black population was small compared to the White. To counter this move, the Negro Industrial and Educational Association was organized with chapters throughout the state. The members of the Staunton chapter contributed ten cents per month as did other members statewide, to finance the fight. As a result, the tax proposal was defeated.

In the succeeding years not much of significance occurred until June 6, 1905 when the city annexed part of the county causing an influx of colored students which again created overcrowded conditions.

In passing I'll mention three incidents which illustrate the feelings of the times. On December 6, 1905 a Black teacher was fired for being disrespectful to the White Supervisor of Drawing. A hearing was held before the Board of Education and it seems that he had questioned some of her assignments and either refused or neglected to carry them out between her visits. He was neither the first nor the last Black teacher to be dismissed. Its significance lies in the fact that he opened the second private school for Blacks in Staunton and its impact in the Black community is still felt today. The first private school was opened

by a Captain Curtis on Main Street on November 25, 1885 for Black males.

On September 17, 1906, the superintendent was authorized to purchase nine clocks for the colored schools, provided their cost did not exceed the price paid for similar clocks purchased for the White schools in 1904.

On August 31, 1907, a colored teacher was denied the privilege of engaging in the millinery business outside of school hours because it was feared that it might interfere with her school work. At the same Board meeting salaries were set for the following year:

White Teachers \$33 to \$75 per month

Principal \$100 per month

Colored Teachers \$22 to \$35 per month

Principal \$55 per month

Now we come to 1908, the year the big hassle began. At its meeting on August 1, 1908, the Board passed a resolution authorizing the purchase of a lot at the corner of Pump and Augusta Streets and an adjacent lot (old Genesco site) for the erection of a colored school. Funds from the sale of a school house acquired from the county at the time of the annexation were used to purchase the lots. According to the minutes, the location of the school at Central Avenue and Frederick Street was undesirable.

Now let us look into the hassle that eventually involved the School Board, City Council and Staunton's Black and White citizens. The Central Avenue School was undesirable because:

1. it was in the heart of town
2. there was a traffic problem
3. the building was overcrowded and couldn't be expanded
4. it was too close to the White Stonewall Jackson School and fights broke out between the Blacks and Whites on their way to and from school.

In buying this property the School Board did not take into consideration the intense rivalry that existed between the Gallows Town Blacks (Sunnyside St. area) and the New Town Blacks (W. Johnson St. area). Each group wanted the school in their area. The New Town group reasoned that the Black churches were in Gallows Town so they should have the school. The Gallows Town Blacks felt that both the churches and the school were on the outskirts of Gallows Town and each would

compliment the other as they held out for the Pump Street location.

From the Whites' standpoint, the new school would still be more or less in the heart of town, Blacks would still have to pass the Stonewall Jackson School, fights would still continue and the value of the lot would increase with the growth of the city thus denying a private investor a profit.

But let's return to the minutes of the Board. The property was purchased soon after the October 1, 1908 meeting. On November 11, 1908 a request was sent to City Council for funds to erect the building. There is no mention of a reply from Council but from future entries one gets the impression that the Board may have received an unofficial communication from City Council.

On January 7, 1909, a prominent White citizen offered the School Board either of two lots which he considered more suitable for a colored school. One was at the corner of Jefferson and Johnson Streets and the other at Church and Montgomery.

On August 27, 1909 the Board discussed the pros and cons of two colored schools versus one. No action was taken and the matter was tabled for further investigation. It was during this period that a four year high school was provided for the Whites.

On October 1, 1909 the Board received a communication from City Council which stated that it was Council's opinion that two separate and independent colored schools should be erected, one on Sunnyside Street and the other on Green Street. Council further advised the sale of the Pump Street lot and if the Board would agree to these conditions, Council would appropriate \$12,000 to erect the two buildings.

On November 11, 1909 a committee was appointed to determine a fair price for the Pump Street lot.

No further mention is made of the Pump Street lot until December 4, 1912 when W. J. Perry was appointed to sell the lot if he could secure a bid for \$2700.

On May 27, 1913, the Board approved its sale and voted to use the proceeds to remodel the White Main Street school. Evidently the sale did not materialize because on August 25, 1913 the lot was tendered to City Council if they would provide the funds for remodeling. This proposal also did not materialize.

Nothing further occurred until April 12, 1915, seven years after a new colored school was first considered and it is interesting to note the rapidity with which the Board moved.

At their April 12, 1915 meeting the Board authorized the purchase of four lots on Sunnyside Street for \$2100 and a lot and house on West Johnson Street for \$1300 for the erection of two Black schools. At the same meeting the sale of the colored school on Central Avenue was authorized and the proceeds to be used to erect the two buildings for Blacks.

On April 22, 1915 an auctioneer was employed to sell the Central Avenue school.

On June 11, 1915 bids were opened and contracts were awarded.

At the August 17, 1915 Board meeting, the opening date for the White schools was set for September 13, 1915 and the opening of the Black schools would depend upon the completion of the buildings. The total cost of the two buildings with a total of eleven rooms was \$13,795.64. The Thomas Jefferson Grammar School opened on November 22, 1917 at a cost of \$61,029.54 with sixteen rooms.

It was in the nineteen twenties that Black education really began moving. On May 25, 1920, the Superintendent of Public Instruction notified the local board that \$400 of state money was available if the colored school (Booker T. Washington) would be organized as a junior high school. The local board so directed. The Whites had had a senior high school as far back as 1909.

If there is a Red Letter Day in Black public education in Staunton I would pick April 6, 1923 when George E. White, a recent graduate of Northwestern University and a native of Evanston, Ill., was appointed principal of the Booker T. Washington School. He immediately began working with what was available to improve Black education. New life was breathed into the Mother's Club and they set about raising funds to establish a library at the school. The men, with help from Staunton Military Academy, sponsored the football and basketball teams. The faculty promoted the yearbook and extra-curricular activities. New courses were introduced, a summer school was initiated- all under Mr. White's leadership. The Black community became excited and worked to provide better education for their children.

Mr. White's main goal was achieved on June 7, 1926 when the Board of Education approved a request that the Booker T. Washington School become a four year senior high school, but with the proviso that the Negro patrons would have to pur-

chase whatever equipment and supplies that would be required for a science laboratory. Many Blacks felt that the proviso was unfair and Mr. White agreed but pointed out that unless the school became a four year high school those few Negro families who could afford it would have to continue to send their children to Washington, Baltimore, Richmond or Petersburg to complete high school while the majority of local Blacks would continue to have less than a high school education.

A drive was initiated involving the Mother's Club, fraternal and social organizations, churches and individuals to raise the necessary funds. When school opened in September all equipment and supplies were in place and in June 1927 the first class of eleven students graduated from the first four year Black high school in Staunton. All sixteen required units, no electives, were taught in three classrooms and a basement room at the Sunnyside Street school. It is interesting to note that two members of that first class went on to earn their Ph.D's, one in anthropology and the other in Home Economics.

By the early thirties, realizing the inadequacies of their high school, and the superiority of Robert E. Lee High School, Staunton Blacks began agitating for a new building. By 1935 it became apparent that a new building might become a reality. At their March 12, 1935 meeting the Board discussed possible sites but took no action, however, at their April 9, 1935 meeting, the Board authorized the superintendent to secure options on a site adjacent to the old reservoir on West Johnson Street.

On August 28, 1935 the superintendent was authorized to secure a WPA grant, not to exceed \$36,000. On October 7, 1935 the Board sent a request to Council for \$37,950 and the city-owned reservoir lot. On October 21, 1935 Council approved the request and on October 31, 1935 the purchase of the land was authorized.

Soon after construction began two things became apparent. One, there was not enough money to complete the building and two, Council was not in the mood to appropriate additional funds. So it was decided not to complete the gymnasium except to put a roof over it. At the December 10, 1935 meeting a committee of Blacks appeared before the Board and petitioned them to complete the gymnasium. As a result the Board decided to formally request additional funds from Council. When the request was presented, Council reversed itself and approved the additional funds.

The building was completed in October 1937 and the faculty, parents and students moved furniture, equipment, books, supplies, etc. from the Sunnyside Street school to the new building on a Saturday and Sunday and the new Booker T. Washington High School opened on Monday.

During the forties a statewide initiative of the Black Virginia Teachers Association spilled over into Staunton. Since 1870 Black public school teachers in Virginia and elsewhere in the south were traditionally paid less than White teachers. To change the practice on the part of local Boards of Education the Virginia Teachers Association initiated two class action suits in federal court, one in Norfolk and the other in Newport News. On December 10, 1940, The Staunton Teachers Association petitioned the local school board for equalization of salaries, which petition was referred to the City Attorney. On April 18, 1941 the Black teachers again appeared before the Board, this time with the Parent Teachers Association. They were granted a ten dollar a month increase. On August 7, 1949, the Staunton Teachers Association reappeared before the Board and were informed that the Board had been trying to equalize salaries since 1942 and hoped to complete the process in a few years. By the fifties teacher's salaries were equalized.

During the fifties and sixties many changes occurred in Staunton's public schools, especially in the Black portion. Both Robert E. Lee and Booker T. Washington High School, became five year high schools. The curriculum at the Booker T. Washington High School was enlarged, more academic courses were added, the business curriculum was expanded, music, both vocal and instrumental, physical education, art diversified occupations, special education and guidance were added and the extra curricula program was expanded. Three Black schools were consolidated under one principal with one assistant.

Even with the above changes, it became apparent in the early fifties that the gap was widening instead of closing between the opportunities offered at Lee and those offered at Booker T., primarily because of the latter's enrollment. Even with the county's Black students attending Booker T. for their junior and senior years its enrollment never exceeded two hundred and there is a limit to the number of courses that can be offered to so small a number of students. The same situation existed in Waynesboro and Augusta County. Black citizens of

the three jurisdictions became concerned because they felt their children were being short-changed educationally.

After a series of separate and joint meetings involving the three groups of Black parents a proposal was drafted for presentation to each of the three school boards. The gist of the proposal was to erect a regional high school which would draw its students from all three jurisdictions. This would provide an enrollment large enough to provide the same opportunities for Black children that the White children were receiving. The three Boards set up a joint committee to study the proposal and the idea had progressed to the point of selecting a site when the Supreme Court handed down its 1954 decision. When that occurred the three Boards dropped the idea and each went its separate way. Augusta County built its Central Augusta High School and withdrew its juniors and seniors from Booker T., Waynesboro built an addition to its Rosenwald High School, Staunton added four rooms at Booker T. in 1959 and another four in 1963. In June 1966 Black education as a separate entity in Staunton came to an end.

Even though Black education in Staunton was beset with problems all through its 96 year history, some of which were unsolvable, there were still several things it had going for it.

First, it was always blessed by having strong and dedicated teachers. A weak and/or poor teacher was not tolerated and since up to the early sixties there was usually a surplus of Black teachers, it was easy to weed out and replace weak teachers.

The Out-of-State Aid Program during the late forties and fifties made it financially attractive for Staunton's Black teachers to upgrade their competencies while earning advanced degrees and they were encouraged to do so.

The teachers worked as a team and assisted each other with their problems. Many of those at the top of the scale had taught the parents of many of the current students. Thus the parents knew the teachers and vice versa and it was much easier to gain the cooperation of the parents in working with their children.

Black teachers expected and insisted that each child work to the limit of his ability. Parents and children knew this and cooperated.

Since the Black teachers were dedicated, it was the rule rather than the exception that teachers would work with students on their own time when extra help was indicated. Parents expected this and at times insisted upon it.

Over the years the facilities, equipment, etc. were limited but the Black teachers were able to make do because they were creative and had the ability to improvise but better still they were able to instill in their students the belief that if they were qualified the sky was the limit as to what they could be or do with their lives.

What kind of an education did our Black students receive? The best measure of a school's success is the quality of its product — its graduates.

From September 1926, when Booker T. became an accredited four year high school, until it closed in June 1966 eight hundred and eleven Blacks were granted their diplomas. Of that number the largest group entered the field of education, which is understandable considering the times during which Booker T. flourished. Most of this number became classroom teachers; however, others became librarians, guidance counselors, principals, supervisors, college and university professors. One became an assistant superintendent in a metropolitan school system and approximately twelve earned their doctorates and more their masters degrees.

The next largest group entered government service on the local, state and federal levels. There are others in the fields of law, dentistry, nursing, medicine, radiology and religion. At least one is in the entertainment field and has appeared on stage and television with Shirley McClain. Many are skilled workers in industry while others are in research or involved in union activities. Several are management level people, some are into real estate, banking and insurance. There are others in social service, law enforcement and computer programming. There are morticians, clerical and secretarial workers, artists, musicians, politicians, market analysts and workers in merchandising and communications. The armed services have their share of commissioned and non-commissioned officers. Then there are those who are self-employed.

The teachers in Staunton's Black schools always felt that their students perhaps were not receiving the best education possible but they were receiving a sound basic education upon which they could build. The children who went through Staunton's Black public schools tend to prove them right.

Captain Joseph Long and The British Spy

Joseph Byron Yount III

Fear and excitement swept through Virginia's Shenandoah Valley the fateful summer of 1781. British troops under General Tarleton were across the mountain in Charlottesville, and Governor Thomas Jefferson and his fleeing legislators had barely escaped capture.

On June 7 a remnant of the Virginia General Assembly, the oldest deliberative body in the New World, met in an Episcopal church at Staunton to carry on the business of government. Nine miles east was Rockfish Gap, and just over the Blue Ridge Mountains the marauding British dragoons pondered their next move.¹

For more than six years the Shenandoah Valley had been a hotbed of Revolutionary sentiment. Thousands of the Valley's stalwart frontiersmen had left their homes to serve with the militia and regulars as riflemen or cavalrymen in the cause of American independence.

Captain Joseph Long was one such patriot. In 1781 he was a thirty-seven-year-old native of Augusta County, Virginia, whose parents had come there from Northern Ireland four years before he was born.² The family lived on South River ~~north~~ ^{South} of Waynesboro on a farm on which the Hershey Chocolate Company began building its first Virginia plant in 1980.³

Five miles away was the Tinkling Spring Presbyterian Meeting House, one of the oldest churches in the Valley, where Reverend James Waddell, a famous frontier preacher, had guided his flock through difficult years. As he prepared to lead them in worship on Sunday morning, June 10, 1781, some dramatic events began to unfold at the church.⁴

Suddenly some men from the neighborhood entered with a stranger they had captured nearby. He was dressed partially in the uniform of a British soldier, and instantly everyone assumed that he was the forerunner of an imminent British invasion of the Valley.

The minister promptly sent his parishioners home for their weapons, urging them to head for Rockfish Gap to meet any British incursion. Young Joseph Long, who had carried his trusty rifle to church, volunteered to escort the prisoner the five miles to Staunton and the county jail.

Long was no stranger to duty. As a young recruit he had fought in the Battle of Point Pleasant on October 10, 1774. By 1781 he had advanced to the rank of first lieutenant, served several tours of duty in the southern campaign, and was soon to be promoted to captain. He was home on furlough at the time of this incident.⁵

His older brothers, Dr. Alexander Long and Captain Francis Long, both Freemasons, were leaders in the county,⁶ and it was not surprising when Joseph Long volunteered for the dangerous assignment of escorting the prisoner alone.



Graves of Captain Joseph Long and his wife, Catharine.

Two miles from the church, they reached the rushing waters of Christians Creek. Long stopped to remove his moccasins, but his prisoner hurried on, attempting to escape by wading the stream in his jackboots. After repeated warnings, Long shot him down. Several days later, he died, having confessed that he was indeed a British spy who had been sent in advance by Tarleton.⁷

The British never invaded the Valley. Their intelligence had warned them that Rockfish Gap was well defended by the

hardy frontiersmen with their rifles. Four months later, Cornwallis surrendered at Yorktown, and the war was over.

Joseph Long lived a long and prosperous life. In 1784 he was a charter member of Staunton Lodge No. 13, Ancient Free and Accepted Masons, of which his brother, Dr. Alexander Long, was first worshipful master.⁸

Forty-five years later, in 1829, Joseph Long died in Augusta County, leaving large estates in Virginia and Kentucky to his widow, Catherine Thompson Long, and their nine children.⁹ The old soldier was laid to rest in the stone-walled cemetery at Tinkling Spring Presbyterian Church where, long before, he had taken the British spy in charge.¹⁰

Today Interstate 64 passes less than half a mile from the hallowed spot. Nearby the surrounding farmlands have given way to suburban homes and light industrial development. The congregation itself, still a strong and vigorous body, worships in a "new" building erected in 1850.¹¹

Yet beneath the live oaks of the old cemetery, it is as if time has stood still. Thus it seemed to the crowd that gathered at Joseph Long's grave on June 10, 1981, the 200th anniversary of that momentous morning during the Revolution.¹²

John M. McChesney, Jr., president of the Augusta County Historical Society and an elder in the Tinkling Spring congregation, presided. Rev. John B. Stanley, Jr., minister of the church, offered a stirring and appropriate invocation and benediction.

Dr. Howard M. Wilson, author, historian, past president of the society and former minister at Tinkling Spring, spoke on the role of the militia rifleman in the American Revolution. Mrs. Charles L. Zakaib, vice-president of the society, representing the Daughters of the American Revolution and the Waynesboro Bicentennial and Historical Commission, spoke on the life and Revolutionary War record of Joseph Long.

Two of the old soldier's great-great granddaughters, representing the family members present,¹³ placed flowers on his and his wife's graves. Another descendant, the writer of this article, a past president of the society, representing the Sons of the American Revolution, read Psalm One from the patriot's own family Bible.

Most Worshipful Robert Randall Kennedy, Jr., past Grand Master of Masons in Virginia and past worshipful master of Captain Long's own Staunton Lodge, placed a Masonic wreath on his grave and spoke of the significant role Freemasonry



COURTESY OF MIKE DIXON, STAUNTON NEWS LEADER

played in the American Revolution and in our national life during the past two centuries.

Nearby, Joseph Long's Scottish knife or "skean dhu" was on display alongside the long rifle he had used to stop the British spy.¹⁴

Captain Long, whose bravery and sense of duty brought him honor in his lifetime, would take comfort from the strength that his revered nation, his beloved church, and his cherished Masonic fraternity enjoy today under the flag for which he fought.

NOTES

1. Howard McKnight Wilson, *Great Valley Patriots*, Verona, Virginia, 1976, pp. 183-184.
2. Wilson, *The Tinkling Spring, Headwater of Freedom, A Study of the Church and Her People, 1732-1952*, Fishersville, Virginia, 1954, pp. 427, 477.
3. See map, "The Beverley Patent, 1736, including original grantees, 1738-1815, in Orange & Augusta Counties, Va., compiled and drawn by J. R. Hildebrand, 1954," published in Wilson, *The Tinkling Spring*, endpaper.
4. Joseph Addison Waddell, *Annals of Augusta County From 1726 To 1871*, 2nd edition, Staunton, Virginia, 1902, pp. 297-299.

5. Wilson, *The Tinkling Spring*, p. 185. See also John W. Gwathmey, *Historical Register of Virginians in the Revolution*, Richmond, Virginia, 1938, p. 482.
6. William Moseley Brown, *Freemasonry in Staunton, Virginia, A Saga of Two Centuries*, Staunton, Virginia, 1949, pp. 23, 29, 31, 33-34, 36.
7. Waddell, *Annals*, pp. 297-299.
8. Brown, *Freemasonry*, p. 36.
9. Will of Joseph Long, Will Book 17, page 55, Augusta County Circuit Court Clerk's Office, Staunton, Virginia.
10. Wilson, *The Tinkling Spring*, p. 464. Their epitaphs read: "Joseph Long, Sr./born Sep. 1744/died 15 June 1829" and "Catharine (sic) Long/born 16 Feb 1762/died Nov. 1836."
11. Wilson, *The Tinkling Spring*, p. 289.
12. Mike Dixon, "Revolutionary War Captain Honored," *Staunton, Va., Leader*, Staunton, Virginia, Thursday, June 11, 1981. Richard McManus, "Bicentennial Event Observed," *The News-Virginian*, Waynesboro, Virginia, Thursday, June 11, 1981.
13. Great great grandchildren of Joseph Long present at the ceremony included Joseph K. Alexander, Mrs. G. Finley Brand, Martha Alexander Hall, and Mrs. Paul L. Howell of Staunton; Mrs. Hugh M. Burruss of Charlottesville; Mary Catherine Alexander of "Riverside," Stuarts Draft; and Mrs. S. Russell Yount of Waynesboro. Other descendants present included Lynn Hall Coyner and John B. Howell of Staunton, Mrs. Waddell C. Calhoun of Deerfield, Hugh M. Burruss II of Charlottesville, and Jo Ann Yount and J. B. Yount III of Waynesboro. (Captain Long's sons, Joseph, Jr., and Alexander, left no issue, nor did his daughter, Mary Parry. His daughters Catherine Alexander and Rebecca Pelter have numerous living descendants. Information on any descendants of his daughters Elizabeth Perry, Dorcas Thompson, or Nancy Long is not available. See Dixon, p. 11.)
14. *Ibid.* See also Wilson, *Great Valley Patriots*, p. 192.

Augusta County Obituaries, 1854

By Anne Covington Kidd

(Continued from Volume 17, Number 1)

Beginning with this issue death notices have been abstracted from two Staunton newspapers, *The Republican Vindicator* as well as *The Staunton Spectator*. RV preceding the date in parenthesis is the key to information found in *The Republican Vindicator*.

At his residence near, Mt. Sidney, Augusta co., on Tuesday the 20th ult., Mr. Wm. M. ALTAFFER, son of Mr. John Altaffer, formerly of Rockingham co. (RV 18 December 1854)

At his residence, on the 11th inst., near West View, Augusta county, Mr. David ARGENBRIGHT. (22 March 1854)

We learn from the Hardy Whig that Henry F. ARNOLD, aged 16 years, son of the Rev. D. W. Arnold, formerly of this place, was drowned in South Branch, near Moorefield, on Friday the 16th inst. (28 June 1854) . . . H. E. ARNOLD, eldest child of Rev. David W. Arnold, of the Baltimore Conference . . . near Morefield, Hardy county. (RV 26 June 1854)

On the 23d ult, at the residence of her father, Wm Gates, Esq., in Chickasaw county, Miss. . . Mrs. Mary BALDWIN, wife of Cyrus B. Baldwin, Esq., of Houston, Miss., and formerly of this place . . . (leaves) husband . . . son and step-daughter, both of tender years. (22 March 1854)

On Monday, the 20th, Charles (BARE), youngest child of Henry Bare, aged about three years. (29 November 1854)

Near this place, on the 21st ult., Jno. Mallory (BASSETT), second son of Jno. M. and C. B. Bassett, aged 5 years, 7 months and 19 days. (RV 4 September 1854)

At the residence of Mr. James C. Riley, on Saturday last, Mr. Jacob BEAR, aged 92 years. (8 March 1854)

Departed this life on Tuesday night, the 28th of February, Mr. James A. R. BLAIR; aged 35 years and 4 months. . . husband . . . father. (8 March 1854)

In Greenville, on the 20th of July, Mrs. Harriette M. BURCH, in the 66th year of her age. (30 August 1854)

On the 24th inst. . . Mrs. Margaret BURWELL, wife of Mr. T. C. Burwell, of this place, and daughter of Col. James Crawford. (31 May 1854)

At the residence of Henry Cease, on the 21st July, Eoline Poindexter (CEASE), infant daughter of Henry P. and Fannie V. Cease — aged 14 months. (9 August 1854)

On the 12th inst., Maria Louisa (CHANDLER), infant daughter of A. D. and Ann Chandler, of this place. (19 July 1854)

Tribute of Respect. At a special meeting of Shemeriah Division No. 37, Sons of Temperance, convened July 25th, 1854 ... Parks M. CHILDRES, who from the organization of our Division at this place, has been a zealous ... advocate we this evening at 5 o'clock, deposit his remains in the tomb (leaves) father, who appears to have more to endure than usually falls to the lot of man. (2 August 1854)

In New Orleans, on the 9th inst., of Yellow Fever, Anne Langston CHRISTIAN, widow of John T. Christian, lately dec'd., and daughter of Charles Cooper, Esq., of Louisiana her children doubly orphans. (25 October 1854)

In New Orleans, on the 11th inst., of Yellow Fever, Charles McLemore CHRISTIAN, in the 14th year of his age the eldest child of John T. and Anne L. Christian. (25 October 1854)

At her residence on Christian's Creek, in this county on Monday night the 22d instant, Mrs. Jane Tate CHRISTIAN, relict of the late John B. Christian, Esq., in the 57th year of her age member of the Presbyterian Church of Bethel for more than thirty years, with the exception of a few years when she resided in Lexington (leaves) children. (31 May 1854)

In New Orleans, on the 26th ult., of Yellow Fever, John Tate CHRISTIAN, in the 36th year of his age a son of the late John B. Christian of Augusta county, Va., and resided for some time in Tuscumbia, Ala., where he was long a ruling Elder in the Presbyterian Church. (25 October 1854)

From the *Wilmington (Ohio) Republican*. Again we have to announce the death of another of our oldest and best citizens—Isaac COLLETT, of Chester township, in this county. Judge C. was in the 70th year of his age was born in Jefferson county, Virginia. In 1810 he located ... in Staunton ... where he was engaged about fourteen years publishing and editing a newspaper, styled the "Republican Farmer." In ... 1824 he emigrated to Chester township ... where he lived until the day of his death was one of the Magistrates of the county for many years, and was in the winter of 1850-51 placed by the Legislature of

Ohio upon the bench of the Court of Common Pleas member of the Presbyterian Church. (15 November 1854)

On the 13th inst., Mrs. Julia COLLINS, wife of Mr. Cornelius Collins, aged 36 years. She came to this country from Barhaven, Ireland when an infant. (RV 20 November 1854)

On the Calf Pasture, on the 18th inst., Mr. Jeremiah CROSS. (28 December 1854)

In Waynesborough, on the morning of the 7th inst., Mr. John CROUS, aged 74 years native of Pennsylvania, but for many years a resident of this county. (15 February 1854)

At the Western Lunatic Asylum, on the 4th inst., Mary Ann (CURRY), wife of James H. Curry, of Pocahontas county, in the 36th year of her age leaves a husband and six children For twenty-one years ... a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church. (26 July 1854)

At Newport, in this county, on the 26th of June, at the residence of his son, Mr. Hugh DAUGHERTY, in the 74th year of his age member of the Seceder Church, Old Providence. (19 July 1854)

At J. A. Cochran's, Esq., of Augusta co., on the 20th of July last, Miss Elizabeth P. DAVIS, daughter of Mr. Walter Davis, and aged thirty-three years a communicant in the Presbyterian Church of Tinkling Spring. (30 August 1854)

In this place, on the 1st inst., at the residence of his son, Mr. Charles DAY, in the 80th year of his age. (25 January 1854)

On the 16th ult., in this county, Catherine EARMAN, wife of Joseph Earman, aged 59 years. (RV 13 February 1854)

At the residence of her son in this county, on Monday last, Mrs. EMMERSON, mother of the Rev. Luther Emmerson. (15 February 1854)

At the Virginia Institution, near Staunton, on the night of Friday the 6th inst., Major George ESKRIDGE, in the 66th year of his age native of the county of Frederick born on the 6th day of January, 1789 — on the same day, and in the same neighborhood with his friend, the late Judge Briscoe G. Baldwin father was Capt. William Eskridge, a gallant officer of the Revolutionary army. Major Eskridge removed to ... Staunton about ... 1810, and shortly afterwards intermarried with a daughter of the late Capt. Wm. Chambers. During the war of 1812 he obtained a Lieutenant's commission in the 12th Regiment of the U. S. Army, and served a campaign on the Canada

frontier After the close of the war . . . was appointed Marshal of the District Court of Chancery . . . and received also the appointment of Brigade Inspector About 1831 he retired to his farm on South River . . . until 1839. In that year the Institution for the education of the Deaf Mutes and Blind was established . . . and the late Gov. McDowell, Dr. Plummer, Robert Gray, Alex. H. H. Stuart, N. C. Kinney, Dr. F. T. Stribling, and James Points were appointed Visitors the board of Visitors . . . invited Mr. and Mrs. Eskridge to assume (head of household) from that time until the day of Maj. Eskridge's death, they continued to occupy it member of the Episcopal Church has left . . . (a) family. (11 October 1854)

J. A. FAY arrived here on the . . . 22d ult., in charge of his wife, who designed placing him under the treatment of Dr. Stribling of the Western Lunatic Asylum (died) Tuesday morning returned to Richmond on Wednesday, whence they came here was about forty years of age. (RV 1 May 1854)

At the residence of her father, Rev. J. J. Glossbrenner, near Churchville . . . on the 17th inst., Mrs. Catharine Virginia (FLICKINGER), wife of the Rev. D. K. Flickinger of Ohio, in the 20th year of her age (member of) the church of the U. B. in Christ. (RV 28 August 1854)

In Waynesboro' on Saturday the 22nd ult., Mr. Jacob FRY, in the 50th year of his age, leaving a large family. (RV 1 May 1854)

On Sunday night, the 16th of July, at his residence near New Hope, the Rev. John GARBER, in the 62d year of his age . . . fond husband and . . . kind father. (30 August 1854)

In this place on Monday evening last, Sarah Elizabeth (GARNER) daughter of David and Elizabeth Garner aged 8 months and 4 days. (RV 20 November 1854)

On Sunday morning last, Mary Ann (GARRISON), daughter of Mr. John Garrison — aged 9 years. (29 March 1854)

In Waynesboro', on the 10th inst. . . . James Wayt GIBBS, only son of W. W. Gibbs, aged about three years. (RV 20 February 1854)

At his residence in Greenville, in this county, on Friday the 23d ult. . . . Benjamin Franklin GRAHAM aged 47 years born in Harrisonburg . . . and received a good education under the Rev. Dr. Joseph Smith, Dr. Hendren, and John Bruce, Esq. He was brought up to the business of a merchant, in which he engaged in his native town, but for the last 21 years

in the town of Greenville, in connection with keeping a public hotel husband and father. (4 January 1854)

Near Mt. Sidney, Augusta co., on the 20th ult., Joseph Samuel (HALE), infant son of Samuel and Mary Hale, aged 10 months and 15 days. (RV 7 August 1854)

Mr. Geo. HEISER, a stage driver in the employment of Messrs. Farish & Co., received an injury a few weeks ago while attending to his duties at the stage yard in this place, which caused his death the Company have determined to grant half pay to his widow. (1 March 1854) Mr. George HISER died on Thursday night leaves a widow and six or seven children. (RV 23 January 1854)

In this place on Monday morning last, Mrs. Susan HEISKELL, widow of the late Peter Heiskell, in the 87th year of her age. (13 September 1854) At the "Woodward House," on the morning of the 11th of September was born in the county of Frederick, in which she spent her younger years, removed to Alexandria and thence to Staunton, in which place she resided more than sixty years — perhaps the oldest inhabitant of the town at the time of her death member of the Presbyterian Church was followed to the grave . . . by three generations of children, grand-children and great grand-children. (20 September 1854) . . . a resident of Staunton for 71 years. (RV 18 September 1854)

In Beaver Valley, Nicholas county, Va., on Sunday the 19th day of November . . . John Nicholas Kinney (HENDERSON), youngest son of Joseph and Charity Henderson, formerly of Augusta county . . . aged 6 years, 8 months and 4 days. (28 December 1854)

In this county, on the 11th inst., Mr. Daniel HILL, aged about 85 years. (25 January 1854)

At the residence of her Father near Salem Church, Augusta county, on the 19th of February, Ann Eliza HISER, aged 17 years, 8 months and 22 days. (8 March 1854)

Near Waynesboro', in Augusta county, on the 20th inst., Lucy F. HOWARD, wife of E. C. Howard, aged 35 years. (29 March 1854)

We were pained on Monday last to learn that Dr. P. C. IRVINE, of this place, had died on that morning . . . at the residence of Mr. W. B. Cockran, about nine miles from town . . . was a native of Bedford county, and had resided here for the last three of four years . . . his age not being more than twenty-

eight years. His remains . . . conveyed to Eastern Virginia, to be delivered to his relations, who are numerous . . . in that region of the State. (11 October 1854) . . . at the residence of Mr. W. B. Cochran, near Churchville . . . came to this place in the Spring of 1851 . . . was raised in Amherst county . . . (member of) the Odd Fellows Lodge. (RV 16 October 1854)

In Charlottesville, on Saturday the 10th inst., of *delirium tremens*, Mr. Samuel JOHNSON, a member of the theatrical company that visited this place last winter. He performed the principal character in "The Drunkard," and always received great applause for the faithful manner in which he acted his part. (20 September 1854)

In this place, on Monday last, at the residence of D. S. Young, Esq., F. L. KEMPER, aged 23, and youngest son of Dr. G. W. Kemper, of Port Republic, Rockingham county. (RV 24 July 1854)

At her father's, in the Little Calf Pasture, June 20th, Miss Eliza KUNKLE, daughter of Mr. Jacob Kunkle, sr., aged 39 years . . . for more than 20 years, an ornament to the M. E. Church. (28 June 1854)

In this place on Tuesday morning last . . . Isaac KURTZ, a well known citizen of Staunton. (31 May 1854)

On Thursday the 7th inst. Mr. Peter LIVICK, living about three miles from Staunton, died of Dysentery. In the afternoon of the same day, one of his children died, and father and child were both buried in the same grave the next day. A few weeks previous two other children died of the same disease, and one since his death. (20 September 1854)

Henry (MASSIE), a son of Nathaniel Massie, Esq., of Waynesborough, lost his life on Saturday night by the accidental discharge of a gun. (11 October 1854) Henry Davis MASSIE . . . On Saturday evening 7th instant whilst . . . playfully engaged with his well beloved Brother Edwin . . . in the orchard of Mr. D. Bush . . . the son of Nathaniel and Elizabeth F. Massie, was born on the 2d day of December 1840. (25 October 1854)

At Perth Amboy, New Jersey, on the 30th of December last, Rev. Samuel MATTHEWS, formerly of Staunton. (25 January 1854)

On the 11th inst. . . at the residence of her father, John McCue, Esq., in this county, Miss E. McCUE, aged about 19 years. (18 January 1854) . . . Miss Evaline McCUE, in the 20th year of her age. (1 February 1854)

Mr. David McFALL, a worthy member of Mt. Solon Lodge, I. O. O. F. died at his residence in Mt. Solon on Thursday last. (29 March 1854) Tributes of Respect. Mt. Solon Lodge No. 110 I. O. O. F. Mt. Sidney Lodge No. 119 I. O. O. F. (12 April 1854) David McFALL died in the village of Mt. Solon, in this county . . . the 22nd of March, leaving a fond wife and five infant children. . . His parentage was poor but respectable . . . born and reared in Augusta. (10 May 1854) The funeral of Capt. David McFALL will be preached on the second Sabbath in August . . . at the Methodist Church in Mt. Solon, by Rev. R. D. Chambers. (26 July 1854)

In this county, at his residence, Mr. Thomas McFall, aged about 64 years . . . formerly of Albemarle, but had been a resident of this county for the last thirty years. (8 March 1854)

Augus McGASKILL, the Nova Scotia Giant Boy, who will be recollected by many of our citizens, died very suddenly, a few weeks ago, in La-Porte, Indiana. (9 August 1854)

At Midway, Augusta county . . . on the 3d inst., Mrs. Maria L. McGUFFIN, wife of Mr. J. D. McGuffin, and daughter of John Bolar, Esq., in the 35th year of her age . . . (member of) The Presbyterian Church at Mount Carmel. (25 January 1854)

At his residence, near Mt. Sidney, Augusta county, on Friday night the 4th inst., Mr. Peter MILLER, formerly of Rockingham county, aged 68 years, 8 months and 7 days. (RV 14 August 1854)

At her residence near Deerfield, Va., on Saturday the 2d inst. . . Mrs. Juliet L. MONTGOMERY, widow of Mr. Thomas Montgomery, deceased, in the sixty-fourth year of her age . . . for the last thirty-six years an exemplary member of the Presbyterian Church of Rocky Spring. (13 September 1854)

On the 3rd inst., Jacob W. MUCK, aged 3 years and 28 days. (9 August 1854)

It is our painful duty to record this week the death of James NELSON, Esq., a highly respected and valuable citizen of our county. He died at his residence on Saturday night last . . . For seventeen years Mr. Nelson was acting Commissioner of the Revenue for Augusta county . . . For several years past he has been the President of the Bank of the Valley at Staunton . . . was an Elder in the Presbyterian Church. . . On Monday his remains were conveyed to the Augusta Church, of which he was a member. (15 March 1854) Tribute of Respect. (22 March

1854) ... a cripple Commissioner of the Revenue ... for 19 years. (RV 20 March 1854)

At the residence of his son-in-law, in this place, on Monday the 27th inst., Mr. George NICHOLSON. (1 March 1854)

At his residence, Clamper Spring, Hill Country Judea, Augusta county, on the 25th ult., Augustus PATE, aged 72 years. (1 February 1854)

On the 30th ult., in the 66th year of his age, John A. PATTERSON, sr., of this county for nine years, a ruling elder of Augusta Church His "children rise up and call him blessed." (26 July 1854)

Gen. B. PEYTON died on yesterday morning long a resident of Richmond, and for many years the city Postmaster. *Richmond Whig* 23d. (28 June 1854) ... of Charlottesville ... on the 21st inst. was a brother of John Howe Peyton, Esq. long a resident of this county. (RV 26 June 1854)

Capt. Samuel PHILLIPS, one of the oldest ... citizens of Fredericksburg, died last week. Capt. P. is the father of the Rev. R. H. Phillips, of this place. (17 May 1854)

On the 28th ult. ... Lavinia Emeline (PILSON), daughter of Matthew and Lavinia E. Pilson, aged one year and six months. (15 February 1854)

On Wednesday morning, the 20th inst., at Centreville, Augusta county, Lewellyn Finley (PLECKER), son of A. W. & M. L. Plecker, aged 3 months and 14 days. (4 October 1854)

Messrs. Marquis & Kelly, stone cutters of this place, are preparing a monument to be erected over the grave of John PRESTON, in Tinkling Spring grave yard, by order of his great-grand son, the Hon. William C. Preston, of South Carolina John Preston was one of the early settlers of this county May Court, 1746: "John Preston came into Court and prayed leave to prove his importation ... made oath that at his own charge he had imported himself, Elizabeth his wife, William his son, and Lettice and Ann his daughters immediately from Ireland into this Colony" (27 September 1854)

On Sunday afternoon last, Mrs. RICE, wife of the Rev. Dr. Rice, pastor of the Baptist Church in this place. (4 October 1854)

On Tuesday 1st inst., at New Hope, Augusta County, Mrs. Mary E. (ROBERTS), wife of Dr. Wm. R. Roberts, of that place, and daughter of the late Ira B. Brown, of Albemarle about

35 years of age leaving husband and children. (RV 14 August 1854)

On the 17th ult., in this place ... Mrs. Julia Ann ROBINSON, aged about 40 years. (RV 2 October 1854)

Near Salem, Montgomery County, Ohio, Mr. Samuel ROOT, in the 49th year of his age, formerly of this county. (RV 26 June 1854)

Near Mt. Sidney, on the 7th inst. ... Virginia Margaret (ROOTES), daughter of William M. and Elizabeth Rootes, aged two years six months and seventeen days. (13 September 1854)

On the 8th of Aug. near Spring Hill, Augusta county, Archibald Huston (RUTHERFORD), son of Jas. W. and Susan C. Rutherford, age ten years and eight days. (RV 2 October 1854)

On April 29th inst. ... near Mt. Sidney, Mr. John SHEETS, sr., in the 62nd year of his age six children left. (10 May 1854)

On Saturday 14th inst., at the Augusta Springs, the residence of her son, Mr. Bailey Shumate, Mrs. ——— SHUMATE, in the 94th year of her age born in Fauquier county, Va. After her marriage she removed with her husband to ... Kentucky, where her husband died in ... 1824. She remained there until 1849 member of the Baptist Church On Sunday 15th, her remains ... were taken to the Methodist E. Church at Parnassus, where an appropriate sermon was delivered by the Rev. Mr. March. (25 January 1854)

On the 14th inst., James (SIMMERMAN), son of Mr. George Simmerman — aged seven years. (20 September 1854)

On Friday the 1st day of September, Mrs. Sallie SIMMERMAN, wife of Mr. George Simmerman. (20 September 1854)

On the 26th ult. ... Marcellus (SMITH), eldest son of Geo. W. Smith, of this place, aged about ten years. (1 November 1854)

On the 19th inst. ... Silas (SOUTHARDS), youngest son of Wm. Southards, aged 15 years, 6 months and 9 days. (29 November 1854)

In this place ... on the 18th instant, Miss Martha J. STANTON, formerly of Staunton came to make her home among us but a few short months ago. *Lex. Gaz.* (28 December 1854)

At her residence near Waynesborough, on Tuesday the 25th of July, Mrs. Frances STEELE, in the 73d year of her age was a native of Greenbriar, but a long residence in this county

had made her widely known An invalid through life. (9 August 1854)

In this place, on the 8th inst., Mrs. Mary E. (STEINBUCK), wife of Mr. Jacob Steinbuck. It is but a few weeks since the subject of this notice was led to the hymenial altar. (15 February 1854)

At Wyoming, Pa., on Sunday evening the 5th inst. ... in the 12th year of her age, Julia J. STEVENSON, daughter of the Rev. P. E. Stevenson, formerly of Staunton. (15 March 1854)

At Fetterman, Va., on the 10th inst., Mr. Jacob Kinney STRIBLING, of this place, in the 46th year of his age left his home to visit two of his children, who were at school in Mason county His mortal remains were brought home, and committed at night to their mother earth widow and orphans. (27 September 1854)

Suddenly, on the 18th inst., at the residence of Mr. Tebo, of this place, Mrs. Elizabeth SULLIVAN, aged 26 years. (27 September 1854)

At Grandview, Illinois ... on the 19th ult., John TATE, Esq., for many years a ... citizen of this county. (4 October 1854)

At his residence, near Greenville, in this county, on the 21st inst. ... John A. TATE, in the 40th year of his age affectionate husband, a kind father one of Representatives in the Legislature of his native State member of the Presbyterian Church of Bethel. (29 November 1854)

Wm. Jaqueline TAYLOR, Esq., local editor of the Richmond "Penny Post," died on the 9th inst. (18 October 1854) ... city reporter once a law student in Staunton. (RV 16 October 1854)

On the 19th ult. ... in this place, Mr. Abraham TEABO, aged about 45 years. (RV 2 October 1854)

Lucas P. THOMPSON, Jr. ... died at Amherst Court House on Saturday night last not more than twenty-three or twenty-four years of age had just located at Amherst Court House to pursue the profession of law was the son of Judge Thompson, of Staunton. *Lynchburg Repub. of Oct. 26th.* (1 November 1854) Tribute of Respect. Amherst Division of the Sons of Temperance, No. 287. (8 November 1854) .. eldest son of Judge L. P. Thompson ... on the 21st ult. His age was 25 years.

His remains were brought to Staunton on the 24th, and buried in Thornrose Cemetery. (RV 30 October 1854)

On the 10th inst. ... in the 30th year of her age, Mrs. Mary D. THOMPSON, wife of Charles S. Thompson of this county member of the Presbyterian Church has left ... husband and four small children. (26 April 1854)

Mr. Thomas TINSLEY, jr., of the firm of Butler & Tinsley, Richmond, died suddenly at Mountain Top, on the 28th ult. His family were spending a few days there He was conveyed to Richmond in a metallic coffin, furnished from the establishment of A. D. Chandler of this place. (RV 7 August 1854)

A. H. TRAYER, for the murder of William Coleman (executed) near this place, on Friday the 6th. (11 January 1854)

On Thursday evening, the 3d inst., at the residence of Nicholas K. Trout, Esq., Miss Rebecca TROUT, aged 54 a resident of Front Royal, in company with her sister, was on a visit to their relatives in this county arrived at her nephew's on Thursday member of the Methodist E. Church for about 40 years. (18 October 1854)

At Middlebrook, June the 14th, Mrs. Ann Eliza TURK, wife of Col. Rudolph Turk, and daughter of Col. George C. Robertson, aged about 35 years member of the M. E. Church (leaves) husband and 5 children, one an infant. (21 June 1854)

A most cold blooded murder was committed near Graham's Furnace, in this county, on Sunday night last Two men in the employ of Mr. Graham, named Cornelius Worrell and Henry TUTOR (quarrelled) (Later Worrell) proceeded to Tutor's cabin and ... fired upon him Tutor lingered till ... Monday night. (28 June 1854)

On the 5th inst., at the residence of his father, Jacob Vanlear, Mr. Sam'l. VANLEAR, aged about 21 years. (12 April 1854) Tribute of Respect. Staunton Lodge, No. 45, I. O. O. F. (26 April 1854)

On Tuesday the 8th inst., in Lafayette, Montgomery county, Mr. Abraham VENABLE, of Staunton was for several years jailor of Augusta county. (16 August 1854) ... leaves a wife. (RV 14 August 1854)

On the 7th inst., at the residence of her father, R. Tate Wallace, near Greenville, in this county, Eleanor Amanda WAL-LACE, in the 18th year of her age. (RV 28 August 1854)

On Thursday last . . . Mrs. Betsy Ann WILLSON, wife of Mr. Daniel Willson, of this county. (30 August 1854)

Near Mt. Sidney, on Wednesday evening, November the 1st, in the 25th year of his age, Mr. Erasmus E. WRIGHT, son of Absalom and Sophrona Wright. (15 November 1854)

Greenville, Virginia

By
John Brake

Greenville, Va. lies in Augusta County, Riverheads District. Route 11 divides the Village into two sections, old and new Greenville. The land area now taken by Route 11 in Greenville before 1930 was known as *Back Street*. Greenville is located twelve miles South of Staunton and twelve miles north of Fairfield, Va.

The South River has its beginning in the Greenville area, flowing through the Village on its way to Waynesboro.

The land area known as Greenville today was originally part of the land grant from William Beverley to Patrick Campbell who received 1546 acres in 1738.

One interesting property in the middle of Greenville is today owned by Mr. Clayton Clemmer. Talking with Mr. Clemmer about his home, he stated the house was built in 1804 and was in two parts. A porch was across the front with two front doors. In recent years, the Yowells lived in the left side and the Vines' on the right. Mr. Clemmer also said Mrs. Margaret B. Shinnick from whom he bought the house in 1946 told him there had been a number of businesses located in this house at different times in the past. Some were:

1. A hat shop that was thought to have been located in the basement.
2. A Post Office that was operated by Ella McKay.
3. A harness shop.
4. A Drug Store.
5. A Dentist Office operated by Dr. Fred Shultz.

Some of the early owners of this property were:

1. William Beverley to Patrick Campbell, Feb. 21, 1738.
2. Patrick Campbell to William Sayers, 1745.

3. William Sayers to John Patterson, Oct. 24, 1748.
4. John Patterson to John Ward, May 18, 1750.
5. John Ward and Elizabeth to John Sterling, March 20, 1775.
6. John Sterling to Thomas Steele, Nov. 28, 1793.
7. Thomas Steele and Jean to William McKee, June 17, 1794.
8. William McKee to William Shields, Jr., Feb. 19, 1799.
9. William Shields, Jr. and Sarah to Christian Snyder, June 15, 1804.

Property conveyances for this land can be found in the following deed books in Augusta County Court House: Deed Book 2 through Deed Book 197.

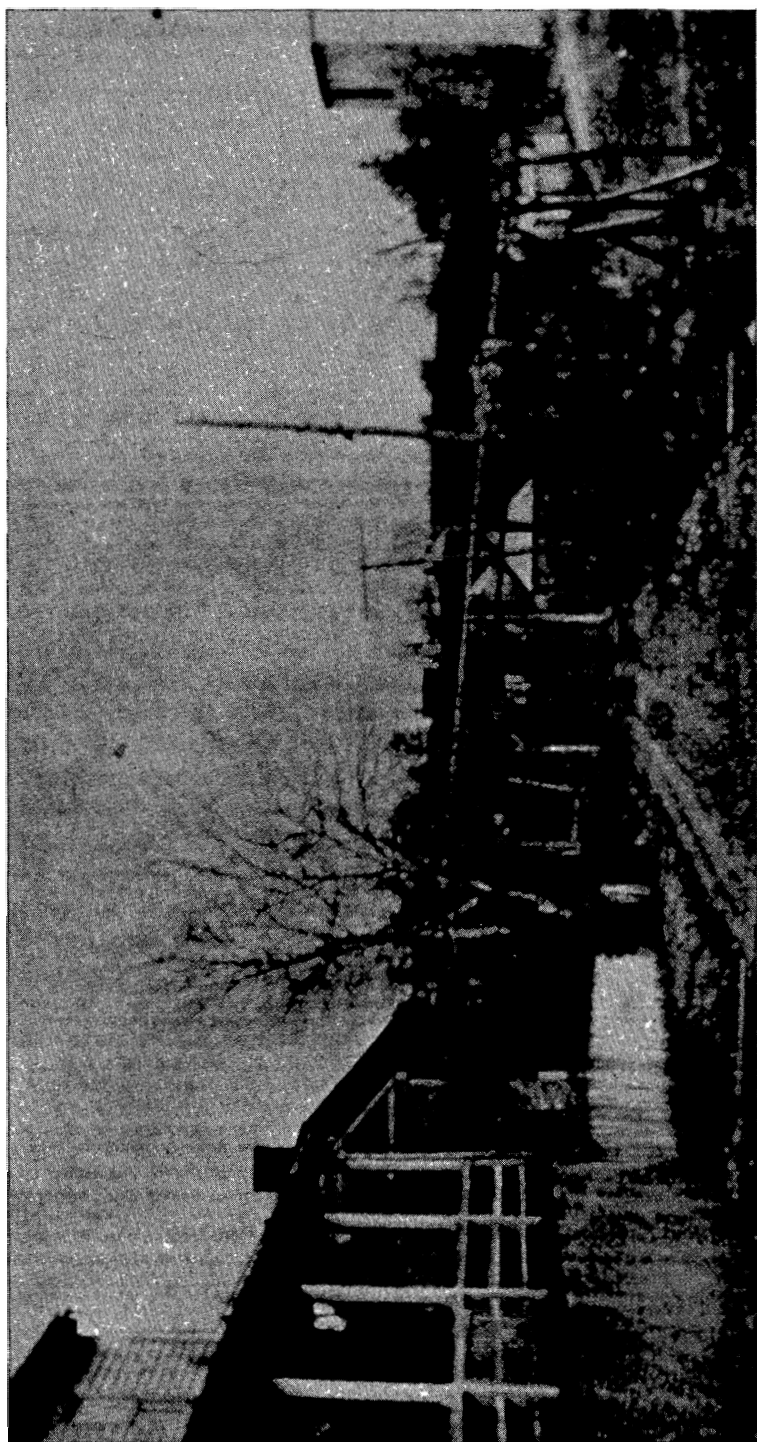
Original purchasers of lots in Greenville from Thomas and Jane Steele were:

Lot. No.	Purchaser	Date of Purchase	Deed Book
1.	John Mitchell	June 17, 1794	28, page 203
2.	Thomas Mitchell	June 17, 1794	28, page 202
3.	Robert Doake	June 17, 1794	28, page 201
4.	William Mc Kee	June 17, 1794	28, page 204
5.			
6.	Nathaniel Burket	June 16, 1795	28, page 348
7.	Michael Apple	June 16, 1795	28, page 350
8.	John Moore of Rockbridge Co.	June 16, 1795	28, page 349
9.	Jacob Long	June 16, 1795	28, page 346
10.	Jacob Long	June 16, 1795	28, page 346
11.	George Shultz	June 16, 1795	28, page 351
12.	John Collins	June 16, 1795	28, page 350
13.			
14.	John Bright	June 16, 1795	28, page 347

Note: All of the above original purchases were for 1/4 acre and sold for six pounds each.

Also original purchasers from Thomas and Jane Steele were:

Abraham Troxel — June 17, 1794 — 3/4 acres for 12 pounds
— Deed Book 28, page 201
Adam Hawpe — June 17, 1794 — Deed Book 28, page 202
John Doake — June 17, 1794 — Lot 3
— Deed Book 28, page 203
William Worsely — June 17, 1794 — Lot 3
— Deed Book 28, page 205



Greenville, Virginia — Scene looking north on "Back Street"

Note: Swinging Bridge built by John Collins who was a large "fat" man who did not want to walk up the steep hill. Also built Dr. J. H. Thomas's residence. Collins also owned the farm on Rt. 11 that in 1980 was owned by Hampton Haislip. John Collins was a Baptist. Rt. 11 later replaced this street 1930.

Note first building on left has a date of 1792 carved in rafters, Masonic building on right. "John Brake" 8/27/1980

Robert Steele — June 16, 1795 — Lot 4

— Deed Book 28, page 348

Other conveyances beginning in 1795:

John Burke, Sr. and Elizabeth his wife to Hugh Torbett Lot 2 Book 28, page 335 dated June 16, 1795.

John Burke, Sr. to Hugh Torbett, land adjacent to Greenville dated Dec. 15, 1795 Deed Book 28, page 443. Nathaniel Burket and Mary his wife, to John Echard lot 6 dated June 21, 1796 Deed Book 28, page 538.

Jacob and Sarah Long to David Bell lots 9 and 10 dated June 21, 1796 deed book 28 page 539.

David Bell to James Craig lot 9 dated June 21, 1796 Deed Book 28, page 540.

William Worsely and Elizabeth to Samuel Finley lot 3 dated July 18, 1797 Deed Book 29, page 150.

James Craig, Jr. to Levi Smith lot 9 for \$20.00 dated Sept. 25, 1797 Deed Book 29, page 299.

William McKee of Rockbridge County to William Shields, Jr. lot 4 dated Feb. 19, 1799 Deed Book 30, page 219.

John Burke, Sr. to Nicholas Hope two lots # 3 dated April 29, 1800 Deed Book 31 page 69.

Abraham and Christian Troxell of Rockbridge County to Thomas Lyons 3/4 acre dated October 27, 1800 Deed Book 31, page 148.

William Shields, Jr. and Sarah to Christian Snider for \$40.00, a house and lot #4 in Greenville, where Snider lives. Dated June 15, 1804 Deed Book 32, page 411.

The taxes on these lots can be found in the land tax book, 1786-1799 under the individual names. Greenville appears on the tax list separately for the first time in 1801. At that time, 10 of the original purchasers were still on the tax list.

Note: Lots were sold to Abraham Troxel and Adam Hawpe without any lot number showing. Also note lots 5 and 13 above were not designated in deeds.

Names appearing on the tax list in 1801 for which a deed cannot be located:

Michael Feasle
Adam McChesney
William Steele
Peter Sancebah
John Williams



Street Scene Greenville, Virginia Approximately 1920

Building on right E. G. Vines home place. Middle building "Pop" Shop. Far building — Home of Dr. J. H. Thomas, Sr.— had office in right corner of building.

Scene

Men — repairing street. Old tractor belonged to "Captain" Ned Vines. Donkeys pulling dragging equipment to smooth street surface.

Reprint for "John Brake" 8/27/1980

In 1802, additional Greenville land owners shown on the tax lists were: John Aston, Thomas McCurgen, Christian Snider, and John Cudden.

Land tax book District I:

1800, John Collins, 1/4 acres, rate \$1.9 Value .27 tax .1

Adam McChesney, 1/2 acre

Before going on with Greenville's past it is in order to say a few words about the original land owner, Patrick Campbell.

Patrick's father was John Campbell who came from Ireland to America in 1726, with five or six grown sons and several daughters. He settled first in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania. Six or eight years later he removed to that part of Orange County, Virginia that in 1738 became Augusta County. Three of John Campbell's sons came with him to Augusta County: Patrick, Robert, and David.

Patrick Campbell was probably born in 1696. Patrick's father John was born in 1674 on his father's estate seven miles from Londonderry, Ireland. John's father and mother were Duncan and Mary McCoy Campbell. Duncan's father was Dougal Campbell who was born at Inveraray, Argyleshire, Scotland, the ancestral home of the Campbells in the highlands of Scotland. Now back to Greenville, Va.

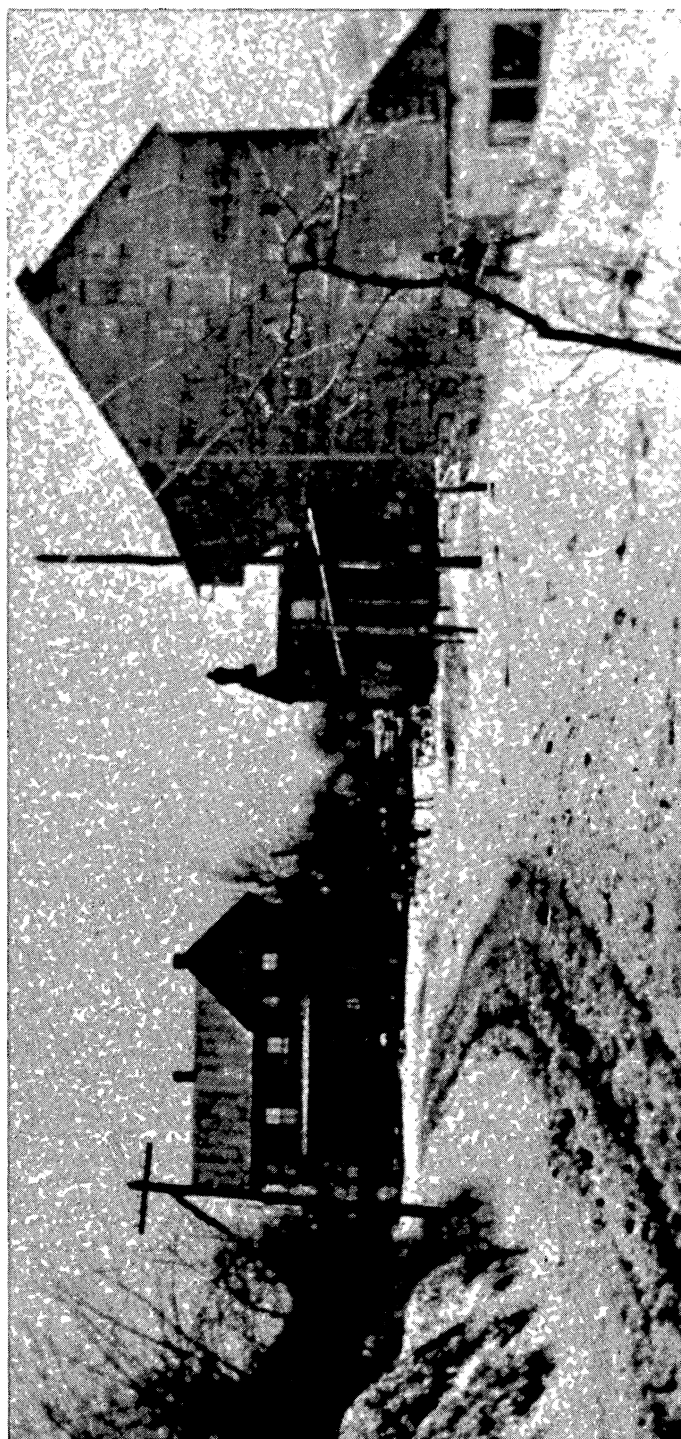
Across Route 11 from the Clemmer property is the home owned today by Richard W. Bosserman. This was the former property and home for many years of Mr. McGilvory Robertson and his wife Sally Talley Robertson. Mrs. Howe A. Spitler, the former Marie Berry, who will be 84 on October 16, 1981, stated her Mother, Mrs. Mary Elizabeth Shultz Berry (born May 31, 1852 in Greenville) told her she attended grammar school in this building as a young girl.

The Staunton News-Leader paper issued April 16, 1940 included an article in the Augusta County Bicentennial Edition Section that stated Greenville's first school house was built of brick and located on a hill above the B & O Railroad bridge. A few years later Miss Sallie McGuffin opened a day school which was operated until the public school was organized.

Some early marriages of Greenville people were:

May 30, 1785 Robert Beard — Sarah Mitchell, daughter of James Mitchell.

March 28, 1786 Thomas Mitchell, son of James Mitchell — Margaret Callison, daughter of James Callison.



Greenville, Virginia Rt. 662 West

Building on right known as "Roller Mill" around 1900. Boyd Shaver — ran mill 1915, Dick Furr, Eliz. Furr, Ed Furr ran mill approximately 1920, Mays, J. Deacon Wade — 1930, Strickler Brothers — 1948. Also much earlier Henry Shultz ran mill for Mr. Smith who owned land. Henry was born 1822. Home shown was once owned by J. Homer Wade and Mable Berry Wade. When deacon ran the mill.

John Brake, 8/27/1980

January 10, 1789 Andrew McClure — Mary Mitchell
 August 12, 1789 William McKee — Rebecca Erwin
 January 20, 1790 William McClure — Mary Shields
 December 31, 1793 William Steele — Mary McChesney
 February 17, 1795 Samuel Pilson — Dorcas Alexander
 June 10, 1795 Andrew Steele — Elizabeth Tate
 April 27, 1803 Paul Apple — Isabella Knowles
 December 9, 1803 Robert Beard (widower) — Martha Buchanan
 August 20, 1805 James Finley — Darcus Doak
 December 8, 1807 John Doak — Isabella Mitchell
 December 17, 1812 Robert Steele — Mary Steele
 March 7, 1814 George Shultz — Naomi Russell
 May 13, 1816 John Thompson — Betsy Apple

A map of Greenville in the Illustrated Historical Atlas of Augusta County, 1885, shows *Greenville School House No. 14* located on property owned by Robert Proffett in 1981. This School house most likely was the school that continued in use until 1910. It was a frame building located on the right side of what later became a ball-field and parallel with the adjacent gardens. The building faced the mountain. It is not known when this school house was built but it continued in use until a new brick school was built for use beginning with the 1911 school term. Mr. Berl O. Spitler said he attended school for the first time with the opening of the brick building. The old frame building was then moved to the opposite side of the lot and behind the new school. At this time the building faced the town. It was then used as the Town Hall. Town meetings, plays, suppers, etc. were held here until sometime in the late 1930s when it was torn down. Mr. E. F. Supple stated he attended school classes for several years in the Town Hall which was used for overflow classes until the second brick building was completed in 1928. Mr. J. E. Williams and Mr. and Mrs. Berl H. Steele said they played basketball in this building on a dirt floor that year (1928). Mrs. Edna Strickler Steele said she went to Cold Spring's chalk mine to get chalk needed to lay off the basketball court on the dirt floor so they could play.

Route 11, passing through Greenville was originally part of the *Great Warrior's Path*, being little more than an Indian trail. This same path was later used by the wagon drivers to move supplies between Pennsylvania and Georgia. Thus the path was widened. In the years that followed a *Plank Road* was started at Greenville and went to the Rockbridge line. However, the planks



Early Scene of Greenville, Virginia approximately 1930

Smith House on left. In 1980 Mrs. Crum stated Smith House has been in Smith family for 200 years.

Reprint for John Brake, 8/27/1980

Picture credit John Brake Collection

became badly worn and this type road was discontinued. Rocks were then used to make the roads more passable.

The first good road to Greenville was built in 1848 from Martin's Mill in Nelson County. This road was later extended to Staunton.

One of the oldest buildings in Greenville is the Smith House. Until her death in 1981, Mary Lyle Smith Crum lived in this home. Mrs. Crum stated the property was first known as the *Smith Tavern* and operated by Ballard Smith. She described the Tavern as a small room used to store whiskey and a larger adjacent room which served as the town Post Office. Another room next to the post office room was used as a bedroom since this was a stage coach stop and necessary to provide shelter at times for a passenger stopping over. An interesting feature of this tavern was a small window on the North side immediately adjacent to the bar used to hand out mail and bottles of whiskey as people were mainly on horseback. A counter below the window had a slot cut through into a drawer. The money paid for whiskey was put into the drawer through this slot and the drawer was kept locked. This window, counter, slot, drawer and post office are still intact as it was then used. Mrs. Crum also stated the Smith house is 200 years old and a member of the Smith family has always lived here.

The following people were listed in 1801 as owning land in Greenville:

- | | |
|--------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. Michael Apple | 12. John Mitchell |
| 2. John Bright | 13. Thomas Mitchell |
| 3. David Bell | 14. John Moore |
| 4. John Doake | 15. Robert Steele |
| 5. Robert Doake | 16. William Steele, Esq. |
| 6. Michael Feaste | 17. George Sholtz |
| 7. Samuel Finley | 18. Levi Smith |
| 8. Nicolas Hope | 19. Peter Sancebak |
| 9. Adam Hawpe | 20. Hugh Talbert |
| 10. Adam McChesney | 21. John Williams |
| 11. Thomas Lyons | |

In 1810 Greenville had 162 people living there.

Another old home in Greenville is known as the *Apple House*. It is located on the opposite bank of the South River from the Smith House and is owned today by Dr. J. Hansford Thomas, Jr.

Michael Apple is listed as the land owner in 1795. Michael married Barbara Beard Feb. 8, 1824. They had a son George Apple. William Henry "Hen" Apple, Jr. was the last Apple to live here. "Hen" married Julia Zimmerman and they had one son, Ira Apple, who later moved to California. After Julia's death "Hen" married Lou Steele. They had no children.

"Hen" Apple was a shoemaker by trade and operated a shoe repair shop in part of the building across the street from his home. The Greenville Undertaker's establishment was located in the other part of the building with "Hen" Apple's repair shop. The Undertaker's business was operated by Howard Supple and Bud Mitchell who were partners.

The Greenville Community was plotted and streets laid out years ago. The streets were named and laid off in blocks. Name signs have never been posted and today only Route numbers are assigned. Names corresponding to the Routes are as follows:

Route 662 East — Blue Ridge Avenue
 Route 662 West — Mill Street
 Route 1201 — Graham Street
 Route 1202 — Church Street
 Route 1204 — Lewis Street
 Route 1205 — Main Street
 Route 657 — Ridge Road

Route 11 was once referred to as the *Stage Coach Road* for in earlier days the only travel came through by Stage Coach. The Coach was pulled by a team of horses with the driver seated outside and atop the Coach. Greenville was a stopping place for the stage coach. Horses were kept in a stable located on land today owned by Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Thorne and Mr. Robert Corbin. A Hotel was located next to the stable to accommodate passengers. While horse teams were being exchanged, the passengers were fed and housed at the Hotel. The Stable and Hotel were both destroyed by fire sometime before 1905. *Mitchell's Travellers Guide* was printed in 1837 and shows the Stage and Steam boat routes. Listed in this book is the following Stage route:

Town stops — Winchester, Va. to Blountsville, Tenn.

Stop	Miles between stops	Total Miles from Winchester
Stephensburg	9	9
Strasburg	11	20
Woodstock	11	31
New Market	20	51

Harrisonburg	18	69
Mount Crawford	8	77
Mount Sidney	8	85
Staunton	10	95
Greenville	12	107
Fairfield	12	119
Lexington	12	130 (131)
Natural Bridge	15	145
Pattonsburg	10	155
Fincastle	12	167
Amsterdam	4	171
Salem	18	189
Christiansburg	27	216
Newbern	17	233
Evansham	28	261
Pleasant Hill	15	276
Seven Mile Ford	18	294
Abingdon	23	317
Blountsville	24	341

No mention is made as to time required for the trip and no return schedule is listed but it is reasonable to assume the Coach returned by the same route and made the same stops at some regular interval.

As Greenville grew, the road South from the Village was known as the *Lexington Road*.

Klaus Wust in his book "The Virginia Germans" has reference on page 99 to Greenville as once known as Howry Town.

Where the name for Greenville came is not clearly established. However, one account is that following the Revolutionary War a town meeting was called to incorporate the town, elect a mayor and to select a name for the town. At first the majority was in favor of calling the town Jacksonville, after Captain Robert Jackson, one of the town's own men. But a discussion with Jackson resulted with him declining the honor. Instead he suggested Greenville after their beloved war-leader General Nathaniel Greene, under whom they fought in 1781 at the battle of Cowpens. This met with the consent of a majority and the town became Greenville.

It is not known who the first mayor was but Henry Apple, Jr. was most likely the last. Greenville lost its corporation status

when a bridge located at the Smith farm was washed away by flood water and the town did not have the money required to replace it. This probably took place early in the 1920s.

During the time Greenville was incorporated, there were numerous businesses and organizations active in the community. Some were:

1. Saloons and Taverns were once prominent.
2. Cattle shipping point at the B. & O. Railroad depot.
3. A Heading Mill where barrel heads were made.
4. A Bark Mill where bark was ground for shipment to tanneries.
5. A millinery Shop
6. A Pop Shop
7. A Bank
8. A Harness Shop
9. A Blacksmith shop
10. Antique and repair shop
11. Undertaker's Establishment
12. A Shoe shop
13. A Flour Mill
14. Dr. Offices
15. A number of grocery stores
16. A Drug store
17. A Newspaper (Greenville Banner)
18. A Saw Mill
19. Four Churches
20. A School
21. A Post Office
22. A Barber shop
23. A Dentist
24. Y.M.C.A.
25. Odd Fellows Organization
26. Masonic Organization

In the late 1800s Greenville had a *Brass Band*. Players were: Harry A. Palmer, Bob Elliot, Ralph Fitch, Clint Smith, Ally McCrary, Charles Shultz, Tom Elliot, Roll Fitch, Bill Fitch, and Clay Shultz.

Greenville was always blessed with accessible routes for transportation. Route 11 passing through the middle of the Village, the N&W Railroad passing two miles East, and the B&O Railroad passing the West edge of the community.

Railroading was so much in the blood of every youngster in the town that in the school rooms each boy was busy communicating sending code by tapping the ink bottles on their desk. This helped them learn telegraphy. Many homes in the community had wires to telegraph keys to private homes just for practice and entertainment. Thus it should follow thirty-one men from Greenville became railroad operators due to their skill and ability to send and receive telegraph messages. Many names of these operators have been lost through time but some still known to have been railroad operators from Greenville are:

1. John Melton
2. Richard Melton
3. Lynwood (Tuck) Melton
4. Fred Shultz in his younger days — later became a Dentist
5. Frank Merritt
6. Ed Mitchell
7. Tracey Mitchell
8. Guy Mitchell
9. David Mitchell
10. Ellis Mitchell
11. Herman Painter
12. Gus Hawpe
13. S. M. Lane
14. Clinton Smith
15. Melvin Ramsey
16. Walt Cullens
17. Charlie Murray
18. Kennith Shultz

Note: Charlie Murray was a one legged operator of the N&W and worked the day shift, Clint Smith was a young man and had the third shift. Walt Cullens had the second shift.

The Greenville Methodist Church had its beginning in 1836 when on March 20th Robert Steele and his wife Martha deeded property to trustees: Henry Beard, William Clarke, John Anderson, Henry Markwood and John Cash for the purpose of erecting a house of worship. The land covered in the deed was 1/4 acre and cost \$20.00.

A brick church was built, the bricks used were made near-by in the community. This building was plain with three long windows on each side to allow light to come into the gallery. There was one center aisle with the choir in front of the pulpit.

The Black folks of the community belonged to this church and occupied part of the gallery. In 1870, this Methodist congregation helped the Blacks build their own Church which was located across the road. Some Charter members of the old brick church were:

1. Mrs. Lewis Bumgardner
2. Mrs. N. M. Hitt
3. Mr. and Mrs. John Newton
4. Mr. Adam Shultz
5. Mr. and Mrs. Henry Burkholder
6. Mr. A. W. McGuffin

During the Summer of 1899, the old brick church was torn down and a frame Church was built and dedicated April 1, 1900 by Bishop J. C. Granbery. The bell from the old church still called the people to worship in the new Church. This new Church cost \$3000.00. Much of the heavy timber for this building came from the farm of Mr. Wm. S. Houser. This frame Church lasted until Dec. 20, 1908. Services were held at 11:00 a.m. that day by Rev. R. L. Eutsler. At 2:00 p.m. Rev. Eutsler was informed the Greenville Church was on fire. When Rev. Eutsler arrived, the roof had fallen in. The residence of Mrs. Phoebe Gentry which was next to the Church was destroyed and the home of Wm. McGuffin was damaged by the fire. Two hundred people formed a bucket brigade to help save the town. At one time twelve homes were on fire as a strong wind carried burning embers over the town.

Work began immediately to replace the frame Church with the present structure which is a larger building. This larger building extended over some graves that were near the old frame Church. Cost of this structure was \$5000.00. The walls of this building were constructed of concrete to prevent another fire from destroying the building.

For the past 83 years Greenville has had the good fortune of having a dependable practicing medical doctor living here. Dr. J. Hansford Thomas, Sr. opened his office here in 1898, twelve years after his brother, Dr. W. Hall Thomas had begun practice in Steeles Tavern. Dr. J. Hansford Thomas, Sr. continued his service to the community until his death in 1933.

An interesting point to note about the appreciation Greenville area people held for Dr. Thomas is that on June 25, 1919 he was presented a new T-model Ford touring car with a list of 263 names of the people who contributed to the purchase of the

car. This gift was selected because Dr. Thomas had braved freezing cold weather and had answered calls at all hours of the night in a horse drawn buggy. He also had worked in the town for twenty-one years, nineteen without presenting a single bill for his service and trouble.

In 1936, Dr. J. Hansford Thomas, Jr. took over his father's practice in Greenville gaining the confidence of his father's patients. Dr. J. Hansford Thomas, Jr. has continued his devoted service to the community since 1936 and his office still receives patients Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday.

Another long standing business that supplied dedicated service to the people of Greenville was Spitler's Store. J. E. Spitler started this business in 1900 and continued to operate it until 1918 when his son Howe A. Spitler graduated from Dunsmore Business School and took over its operation. Howe Spitler continued to serve the community until his death in July 22, 1980. This store had the distinction at that time of being the oldest continuous grocery business under same management in Augusta County.

Acknowledgments:

William Mish
Mrs. Marie Spitler
Mr. and Mrs. Berl Steele
Mrs. Velma Thorne
Mr. Berl Spitler
Mr. Howe Spitler
Mr. Floyd Strickler
Mrs. Mary Lyle Smith Crum
Mr. Woodrow Hutchens
Mr. R. Vance McClure
Mr. and Mrs. Clayton Clemmer
Mr. E. F. Supple
Mr. Ralph Moomau
Dr. J. Hansford Thomas, Jr.
Mr. J. E. Williams
Waddell's Illustrated Historical Atlas of Augusta County
Staunton Library Records
Augusta County Court Records
Mrs. Katherine Bushman

"AND THEIR HEIRS FOREVER"

By
James W. Crawford

In November of 1976, I was made aware that a tract of land on Crawford Mountain had been re-entered on the tax rolls of Augusta County after a long absence. Further investigation revealed the tract to be of about thirty acres, to be completely surrounded by the National Forest, and to be listed as the William and John Crawford Estate. The U.S. Forest Service had requested that it be re-entered on the tax rolls in hopes that it could be purchased for delinquent taxes.

Having always been interested in both mountain land and family history, I began my search immediately. With the knowledge that my ancestral roots came from the place we call "Rockdale" (now Crawford Manor) which is at the foot of Crawford Knob, I decided to try and find the land physically, before searching out the family tree. I knew or rather hoped that we would be in some way kin to William and John Crawford, but I was not at all certain that the land could be found.

The only information I had was some documents left by the Forest Service. Among these was an old Forest Service survey.

For most parcels of land, this information would have been more than enough to determine its location, but this case was different. First, as it turns out, the tract lies a good hour's walk through steep and rugged terrain from the nearest road. Secondly, there is nothing to start from, no creek, no road, not even a trail. The survey description went from rock pile to rock pile.

Several trips up onto the mountain failed to produce anything. Finally one Saturday afternoon after getting some of the topographic features to line up with the map, I stumbled onto a crude stone pile. Near the pile stood an ancient oak tree blazed many years ago, with the last flaking remnants of government red paint on it.

Overjoyed with my find, I oriented the map to the corner which I believed this to be. As it turned out I had guessed the corner correctly. The land lay on a shelf on top of the main spur ridge coming off of Crawford Knob. The shelf averages 200 feet wide and one half a mile long. I was later to find out that the old time bear hunters called this area "White Oak Flats." The remainder of the acreage lies over the side of the mountain on the east or Valley side.

From this point, if the leaves are off (as they were then) one has better than a 180 degree view. Looking left or north you can see up the Valley toward Harrisonburg. To your front is the far wall of the Blue Ridge. To the right is the view of the Valley toward Lexington, interrupted by the Little North Mountain and notched by Buffalo Gap. Around to the right a little more starts the towering slopes of Elliot Knob. From there coming down the backside of Elliot you have a sliver of a view into the Deerfield Valley.

After taking all this in, I decided to try and pace off the distance to the upper corner, a half mile away. This I did, and it proved to be a near costly mistake. Upon the completion of my paced distance, I realized that I had not been watching the time. The sun was dangerously near the horizon. I immediately gave up any further searching for the corner and started down the mountain. I had little desire to spend a December night in the mountains with no fire or shelter. I was making pretty good time until I came head on into a rock slide. Rather than waste valuable time skirting around it I decided to go through it. This was definitely a mistake. Once into it, many of the rocks were big as cars, making going very slow. Even worse was the fact that the slide was running in the direction that I wanted to go. I had to work my way to the edge of it and ended up skirting around it after all. This used up almost all of the remaining light. In a few minutes it was quite dark and I had slowed to a snail's pace, going as much by feel as by sight. I got a long stick and felt ahead much as a blind person would. At about this point I entertained thoughts of huddling up under a tree for the night. Each time however I decided I could go just a little further to see what was there.

Shortly the moon came out, and visibility improved greatly. So bright was the moon that it cast shadows of trees. At about this point I walked under a tree of roosting turkeys, and startled them into flight. They were however probably not as startled as I.

After a period of relatively good progress I heard the tinkling of Dry Branch. Now I thought, all I have to do is follow it to the road at the iron bridge, and there will be my truck. This turned out more easily thought than done.

An old trail which leads to the "Chestnut Orchard" follows the stream. This trail is badly washed out in places with three and four foot drops into the stream. Crossing the stream was also a problem. Visibility was not good enough to see the water. I had

to beat the water with my stick until I found a rock. Finding one, I would step out on it and search for another. I decided against staying with the stream. Keeping my feet dry was a high priority.

Starting up the fairly steep right side of the stream's gorge I encountered my next problem, greenbriers. Anyone who has been caught in greenbriers in the day can appreciate what it would be like at night. Going a little higher the greenbriers thinned out but the towering hemlocks took over. Once into one of these hemlock groves, visibility became zero. I literally could not see my hand in front of my face. This can become pretty frightening and I probably would have become disoriented if it had not been for the consistent slope of the ridge and the sound of the stream below. At long last I came to my truck and the road. I never thought that truck could look so good.

Since that time I have been up there quite a few times, from different directions, but now I keep a pretty close eye on the time. Once while accompanied by my sister and brother-in-law, we got to within about fifty yards of a feeding black bear.

Now that the land was located the first hurdle was over. I was then ready to search my family tree for William and John Crawford, the stated owners.

Among our family records is an old original supplement to Waddell's *Annals of Augusta County*. This proved to be a most valuable document. This supplement which is mostly family histories showed that indeed a William and John Crawford who were brothers, (and in my line) lived in the right area at the right time.

These brothers, William being my ancestor, were sons of Alexander Crawford, one of the first settlers of this part of the valley, and founder of the North Mountain Crawfords.

According to local legend and backed up by Mr. Waddell, a massacre occurred at the Crawford place near Buffalo Gap. Some of the details vary but the basic story is the same.

The people of the community had gathered at the old Keller Fort at Trinity Point near Churchville, because of reports of Indian activity. After some time in the fort Alexander and Mary his wife and the two oldest boys, William and John returned home for supplies. The elder Crawfords remained at the cabin gathering vegetables while the two boys went back on the mountain to salt or otherwise look after some livestock. The Indians descended on the cabin killing Alexander and Mary and

burning the cabin. From their vantage point on the mountain the boys saw what occurred but were powerless to help. The stone remains of the cabin's foundation can be seen to this day.

This was probably part of the same raid which killed John Trimble and is marked by a sign on the Churchville road near Middle River.

I was reasonably sure that these people were the original owners of my tract and the *Annals* traced them up to my father's grandmother. Tracing the title of the land was my next concern.

William and John went on to help raise the other nine younger children, to fight in the Revolutionary War and to raise families of their own.

Both brothers owned large quantities on their own and several smaller tracts in partnership. Some of their land was farm land and some was mountain land. The mountain land was probably speculation for iron ore, as one of the parcels was called the Quarry Tract, and as evidenced by the following story from Mr. Waddell.

"Like his father, however, John Crawford was desirous of acquiring a large landed estate, and there was a brisk competition between him and his neighbor, Francis Gardiner (pronounced by the old people "Francie Garner") as to the ownership of the Little North Mountain range. As related, each discovered about the same time that a certain tract of a hundred acres had not been patented, and both sought to acquire it. Gardiner got ahead of Crawford by starting to Richmond first, but the latter mounted a blooded mare and never rested till he reached the capital, passing his rival on the way. Crawford emerged from the land office with his title complete, and met Gardiner at the door going in. The mare, which was no doubt worth much more than the land, died from the effects of the trip The rivalry between the two neighbors waxed hot, and meeting one day while prospecting on the mountain, they became engaged in a fight, of which one or both, no doubt, duly repented."¹

The size and location are not correct but I like to think that maybe my tract was the one he worked so hard to obtain.

John Crawford did in fact purchase my tract along with several others in a 248.5 acre purchase in Richmond on July 1, 1782. This was the partnership land and was purchased from the

1. Jos. A. Waddell, *Annals of Augusta County, Virginia Supplement*, J. W. Randolph & English, Richmond, Va. 1888.

Commonwealth of Virginia, the first year after Cornwallis' surrender at Yorktown.

John apparently put down 39 pounds 10 shillings, approximately \$131.66 on the counter at Richmond for 248.5 acres. He then returned to the County, hired a surveyor, and claimed their acreage in small and unusual shaped tracts out of any land which had not already been claimed.

A short time after the Crawford brothers purchased their land a man named John Fleming purchased several huge tracts of land. Apparently 53¢ per acre was a bargain even in that day. He purchased 47,900 acres west of Staunton, approximately 50,000 acres in Bath County and several other tracts.

The first mentioned tract, as nearly as I can tell from the description, went from near Jennings Gap south along the foot of the mountain passing Buffalo Gap on into Rockbridge County. There it crossed the mountain and headed north passing near Deerfield and West Augusta and crossed the mountain again. The metes and bounds description running from rock to tree etc. takes up six deed book handwritten pages. Many later deeds in Augusta County refer to this tract and rightly so as "The Big Survey."

The last part of this deed states that there were several tracts within its bounds of earlier patent date. Among those listed is my tract.

Many hours of research in the Augusta County Courthouse traced the land by will to my great, great grandfather. The deed books showed that there was no transfer by deed. The only reference was as an exception to the tract now owned by the National Forest. Tracing this backward through seven owners a reference was made to the original grant which was located in the Virginia State Library archives in Richmond. A trip to Richmond produced the original Flemming Grant (now National Forest) and the original grant to my tract, signed by the governor.

This grant contains some interesting and appropriate wording at the end. ". . . to have and to hold the said tract or parcel of land with its appurtenances to the said William and John Crawford and their heirs forever."

I was amazed at the completeness and accuracy of these old records preserved on microfilm. Besides the grant I also found a copy of the original survey and the land office treasury warrant through which it was purchased.

I later found another reference in the Augusta County Courthouse. Apparently the office in Richmond which handled grants was understaffed and overworked, as long lags occurred between the survey of the purchases and the final grant. In my case it was 11 years. My ancestor William even died during this lag.

Two old books in the local courthouse apparently served as an interim title. These are *The Entry Book* and *The Survey Book*. *The Survey Book* lists who the survey was made for, a metes and bounds description and a small map drawn in the margin. *The Entry Book* apparently listed the new acquisitions as a proof of ownership until the grant came through. I was fortunate enough to find my property in both books.

All of this information I filed with the court in the form of a partition suit. All of the known heirs were notified, the unknown heirs were advertised for in the paper, and the legal wheels were set in motion.

With the cooperation and help of my relatives, and with the passage of three years, I am finally the proud possessor of a deed from the court to 30.64 acres of land on Crawford Mountain.

I am not sure what I can or will do with the property, but the experience of searching for it was well worth the effort.

Twenty-Seventh of a Series
Old Homes of Augusta County, Virginia

"HOME STRETCH FARM"

The Home of Mrs. Ki Williams

Route 97 north from Fishersville from 797

In 1749, William Beverley sold to James Alexander 800 acres of Long Meadow land. In 1760, James Alexander sold to John and William Long of Chester County, Pennsylvania, 400 acres of this tract on Long Meadow. In 1798, Alexander Long, executor of William Long, sold to William and John Thompson 250 acres of Long Meadow, and in 1841 Solomon Miller purchased the land from Alexander Thompson, son and heir of John Thompson, 227 acres on Long Meadow Run. This was land left

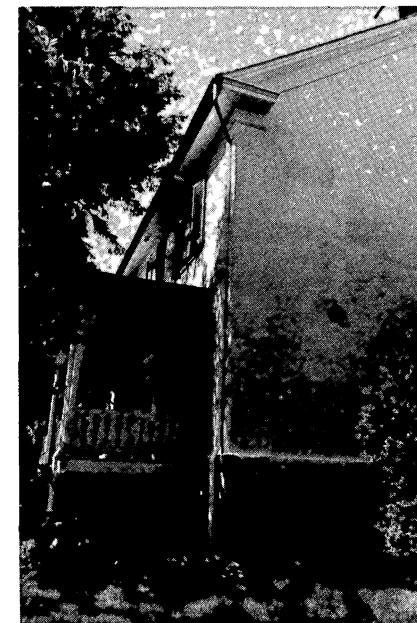


A broad and generous sized porch stretches across the front.

PHOTOGRAPHS BY WILLIAM BUSHMAN

to Alexander by the will of his father who had died in 1841. After Solomon Miller died, the land was partitioned among his heirs. At that time it came into the ownership of John D. Miller, a son. In the early part of the 1950s the Ki Williams family purchased it from a son of John D. Miller.

The north side has no windows.

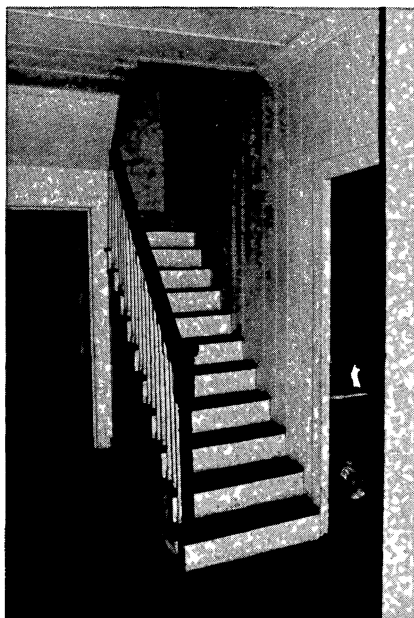


Mr. Williams had recently come to Waynesboro as superintendent of DuPont, and wishing to secure a home outside of town, he decided to purchase "Home Stretch Farm," formerly known as "Locust Grove."

A native of Tennessee, he was an alumnus of Washington and Lee University, and was employed in Washington when he met Mrs. Williams (Edna). She was originally from New York City. He was sent to France to study technicalities of DuPont before taking over his new work.

It was no doubt Solomon Miller who built the present dwelling, or the one which preceded it.

From a wide and generous porch one enters through a door lighted with four lighted skylights that match the windows. Eye-catching is the long narrow stairway with a turn at its top. A well rubbed stair rail shows its care. To the left is the living room — a long ceiled room, dominated by a high panelled mantel. The mantel was once covered with numerous coats of paint until it was attacked by the energetic Mrs. Williams who brought out its fine lustre to a thing of beauty. It has an added attraction of a pair of wine closets set in one end of the chimney, only one of the few besides those in Monticello. Four foot logs are used in the fireplace. The floors are random width pine and



A narrow stairway illustrates the subdivision of rooms.

A corner cupboard that was made by Gov. Andrew Jackson when a young boy. He had been taught his ABC's by Mr. William's great-grandfather.

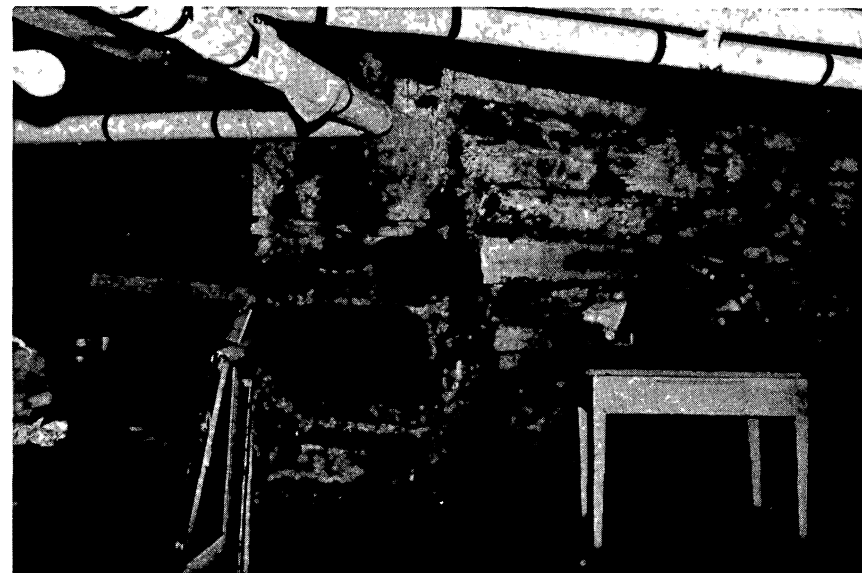


the walls are ceiled, with a chair railing in practically all of the rooms.

Across the hall is a smaller living room with a duplicate smaller fireplace. The fireplace in this room is set across the chimney instead of straight across, as is usual.

Back of this small sitting room is the library, with the fireplace set across the chimney in the opposite direction. Thus one chimney supplies two rooms. This is a most livable room, with its shelves of old books. Among the fascinating objects of this room is an old lantern that was used during the American Revolution. It is round and of tin construction with holes cut in its sides that resemble the moon and stars when the candle inside is lit. Throughout the house the love of antiques is demonstrated by the Williams family. In the dining room is a three corner cupboard that was made by Governor Andrew Jackson. As a young boy, Jackson had been taught his ABCs by Mr. William's great-grandfather.

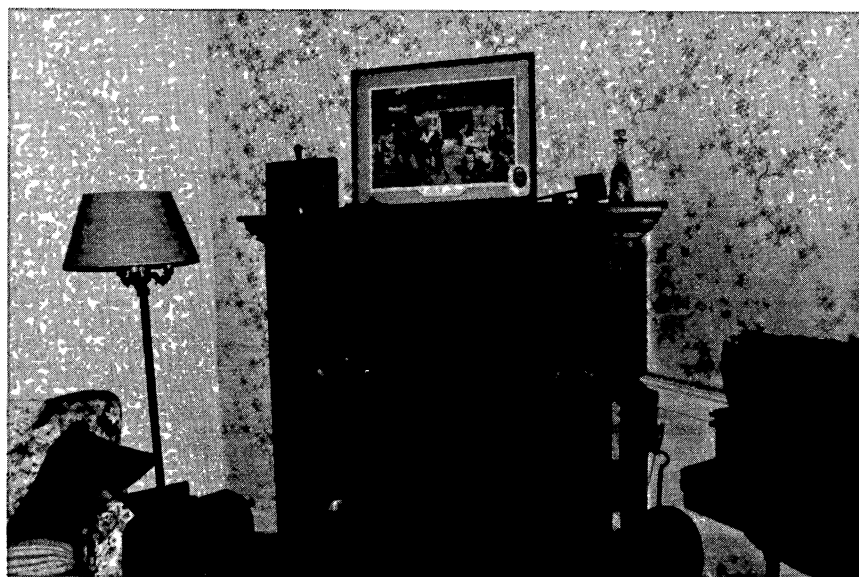
Inside construction shows that the house must have been one large room and subdivided by partitions instead of inside walls, usually the case of homes built in this era. A house of



Stones in the basement indicate that the house could have been used during an Indian attack.



A wide fireplace dominates the living room with a wine closet set in one end.



This room shows the fireplace set across the chimney.

seven rooms, a kitchen was built onto what is now the living room. It has been removed with the entrance made into a window. Where the water was piped into the house from the spring, the pipes can still be seen.

The basement could have been a fortress in time of Indian attacks. Walled in by huge stones, it could have been impenetrable from the outside. Two small windows allow light in the attic. On the north side of the house, there are no windows at all.

In every room, there is an antique clock, all of which must be wound. "This," says the vivacious Mrs. Williams, "gives me something to do."

IN MEMORIAM

*J. Paul Glick

Lucille Campbell Goodall

Howard Luther Lockridge

*Charter Member

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since May, 1981

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Captain (USN, Retired) and Mrs. Reuben E. Stivers, Staunton,
Virginia

Ms. Kathleen B. Thrift, Staunton, Virginia

Mr. and Mrs. John E. True, Staunton, Virginia

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*Harry Lee Nash, Jr., 1966-1967

*Dr. Marshall M. Brice, 1967-1968

*Dr. James Sprunt, 1968-1970

*Richard M. Hamrick, Jr., 1970-1972

Joseph B. Yount III, 1972-1974

*Mrs. William Bushman, 1974-1976

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*John M. McChesney, Jr., 1981-1983

*denotes Charter Member of Society